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Mallitec, Norway.
One hundred ten miles from anything of comfort.
HOW MANY DO YOU HAVE?
ENOUGH.
DON'T GET WISE. HOW MANY DAMNED KIDS?
TWELVE. NO-- THIRTEEN. I FOUND ONE MORE JUST BEFORE I GOT ON THE ROAD. IT SHOULD BE MORE THAN ENOUGH.
ARE YOU CERTAIN?
SEVEN WOULD BE ENOUGH TO COMPLETE THE CEREMONY. WITH THIRTEEN--

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--WE WILL HAVE PLENTY OF BLOOD.
ARE YOU SURE THEY ARE PURE? TO RAISE IT FROM BELOW, THE TEXTS SAY THAT THE CEREMONY CALLS FOR--
"UNTAINTED BLOOD OF UNSULLIED VIRGINS." YES, DAMN IT. THEY'RE ALL CHILDREN.
YES, BUT KIDS THESE DAYS--
WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE? HE MUST BE, WHAT, FIFTEEN? HE'S NO GOOD.
WHICH IS WHY I GOT SO MANY JUST IN CASE SOME DON'T WORK OUT. WE HAVE PLENTY.
YEAH, HE'S THE ONE I GRABBED LAST. HE'S OLDER, BUT I THOUGHT MAYBE WE'D GET LUCKY.
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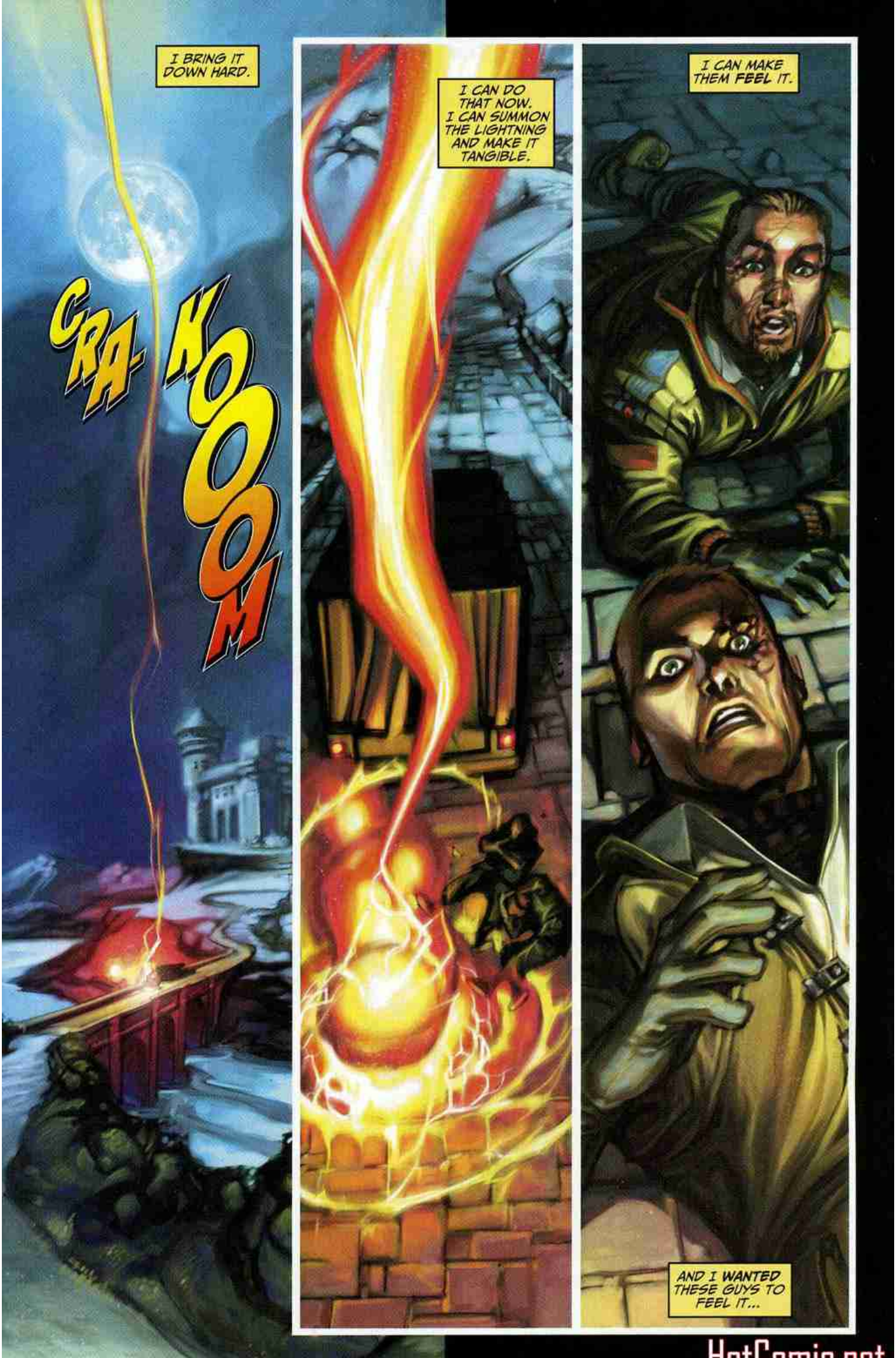
I BRING IT DOWN HARD.
CRA-KOOOM
I CAN DO THAT NOW. I CAN SUMMON THE LIGHTNING AND MAKE IT TANGIBLE.
I CAN MAKE THEM FEEL IT.
AND I WANTED THESE GUYS TO FEEL IT...

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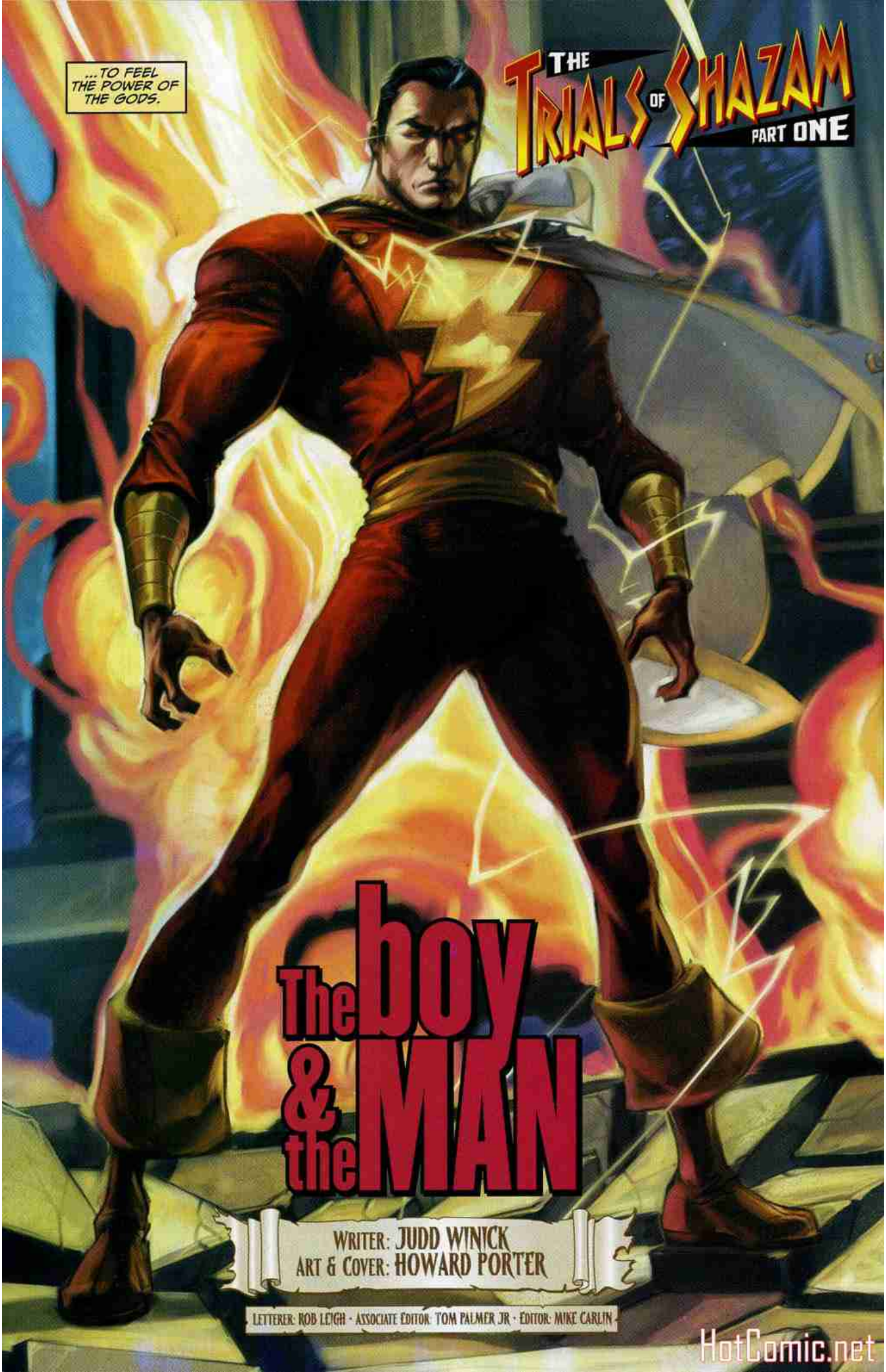
...TO FEEL THE POWER OF THE GODS.
THE TRIALS OF SHAZAM PART ONE
The boy & the MAN
WRITER: JUDD WINICK
ART & COVER: HOWARD PORTER
LETTERER: ROB LEIGH · ASSOCIATE EDITOR: TOM PALMER JR · EDITOR: MIKE CARLIN

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WE ARE NOT FRIGHTENED OF YOU! WE HAVE THE *TRUE* FIRE THAT IS MAGIC UNDER OUR CONTROL!!
YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STOP US!
WELL, THAT'S A THEORY WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TEST, *huh?*
GLADLY!!
OH BOY. THEY WEREN'T JUST BOASTING.

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THEY MANAGED TO IMBUE THEMSELVES WITH AN ALTARIAN DEMONIC TRANSMOGRIFICATION SPELL.
ON TOP OF BEING CHILD-MURDERING SLAVES TO BLACK MAGIC--THEY CAME PREPARED.
VERY PREPARED.

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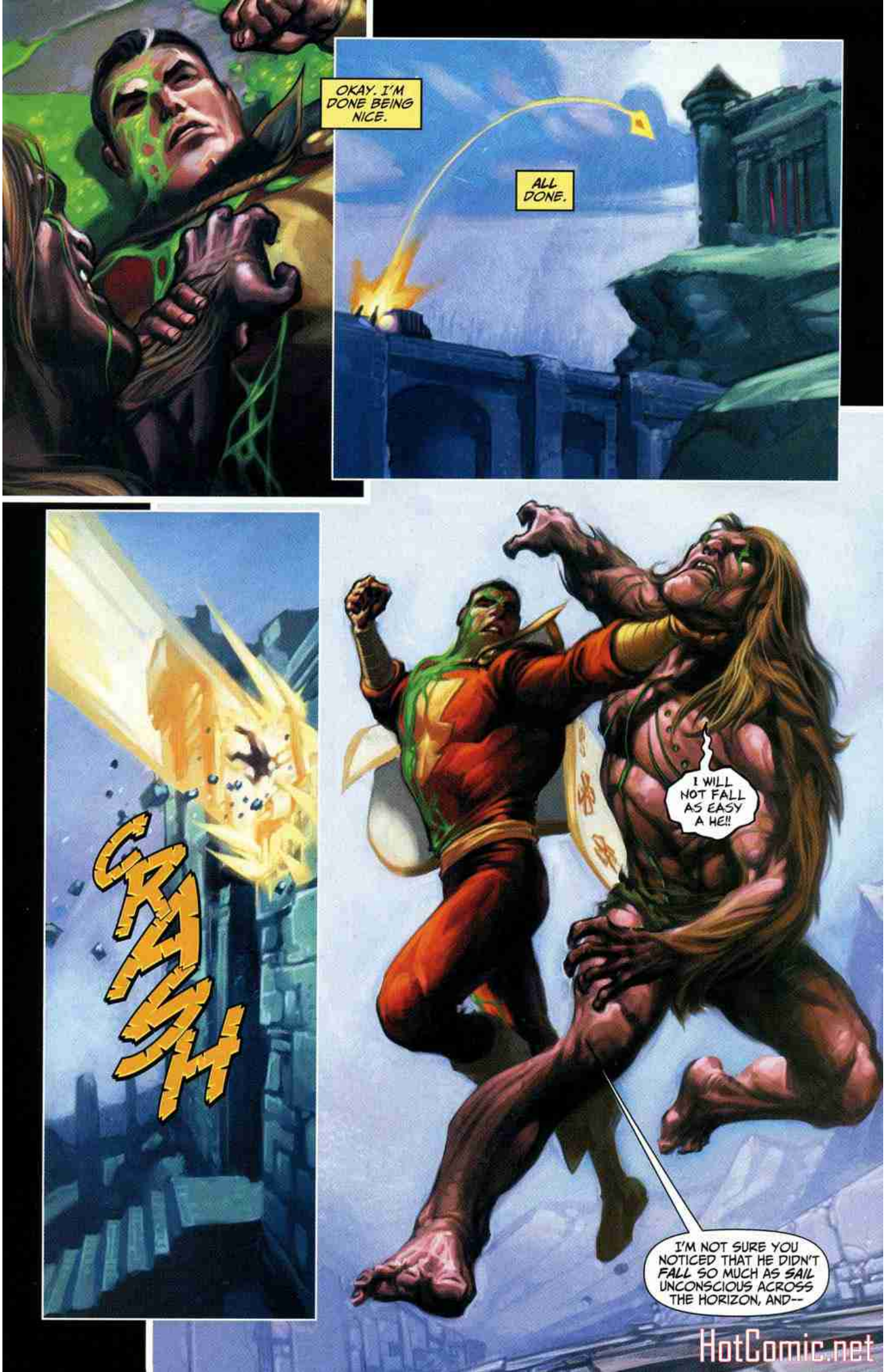
OKAY. I'M DONE BEING NICE.
ALL DONE.
CRASH
I WILL NOT FALL AS EASY A HE!!
I'M NOT SURE YOU NOTICED THAT HE DIDN'T FALL SO MUCH AS SAIL UNCONSCIOUS ACROSS THE HORIZON, AND--
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"-- YOU'RE ABOUT TO JOIN HIM!"
RIMEEN... ARE YOU HERE..?
I AM!
WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING? WHY HAVE YOU ASSUMED THE DARK FORM OF--
CAPTAIN MARVEL... HE IS HERE... ROCCO IS BATTLING HIM...
BUT NOT FOR LONG. ROCCO POSSESSES THE GREATER BRUTE STRENGTH OF THE CHANGELING, BUT HE WILL NOT LAST.
WE WILL HAVE TO PROCEED WITHOUT THE STRIPLINGS.
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BUT THE SACRIFICE MUST BE MADE. THE GREAT TO'LOTT REQUIRES AN OFFERING.
EVEN IF ITS BLOOD IS FAR FROM PURE.
WHAT IN GOD'S NAME ARE YOU DOING?!
I DO NOTHING IN GOD'S NAME.
HONOR DARKNESS, DENAT. IT WILL HONOR YOU.
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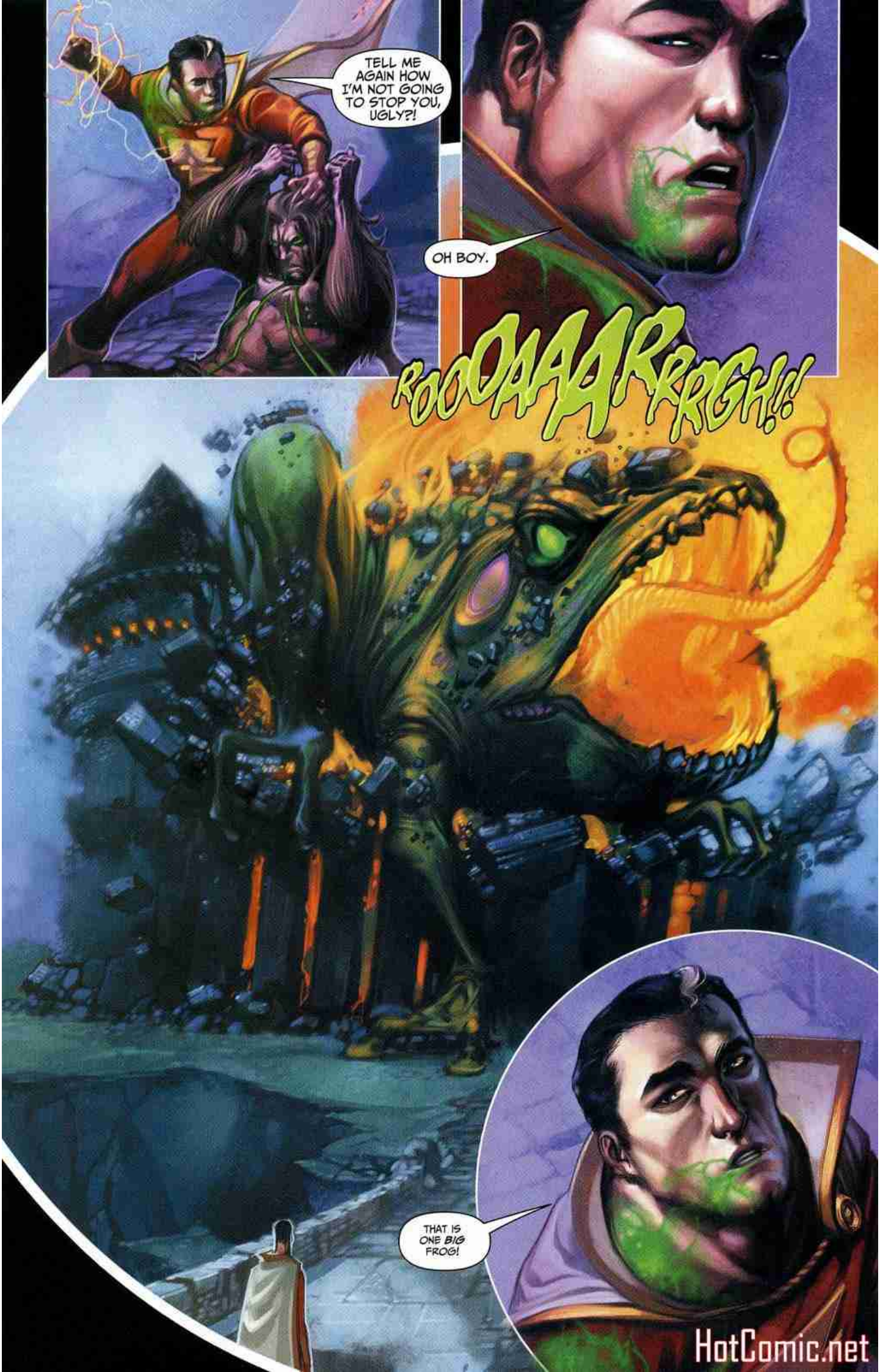

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23 hours ago. New York City.
The great magician Zatanna.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WORSE--THE WAY YOU LOOK--
--OR THE WAY YOU SMELL!
She has her hands full.
LLAF TRAPA!!
CA-WHOOP
SEE... THAT'S NOT SO HARD WHEN YOU KNOW JUST WHAT TO SAY...
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YOU GOT TO GET HIM WET.
IF YOU SAY SO, CAPTAIN.
EB TEW. EDISNI DNA TUO.
SEE? BETTER, RIGHT?
STILL DOESN'T IMPROVE THE AROMA. WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?
IT'S COMPLICATED. YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
I AM AN EXPERIENCED WIELDER OF MAGIC TRY ME
WELL, THERE WAS A CRACK IN A PORTAL BETWEEN THE IRON REALM OF THE GODLING GIANTS AND EARTH.
AN ENGORGING SPIRIT ESCAPED AND FORMED ITSELF A VESSEL

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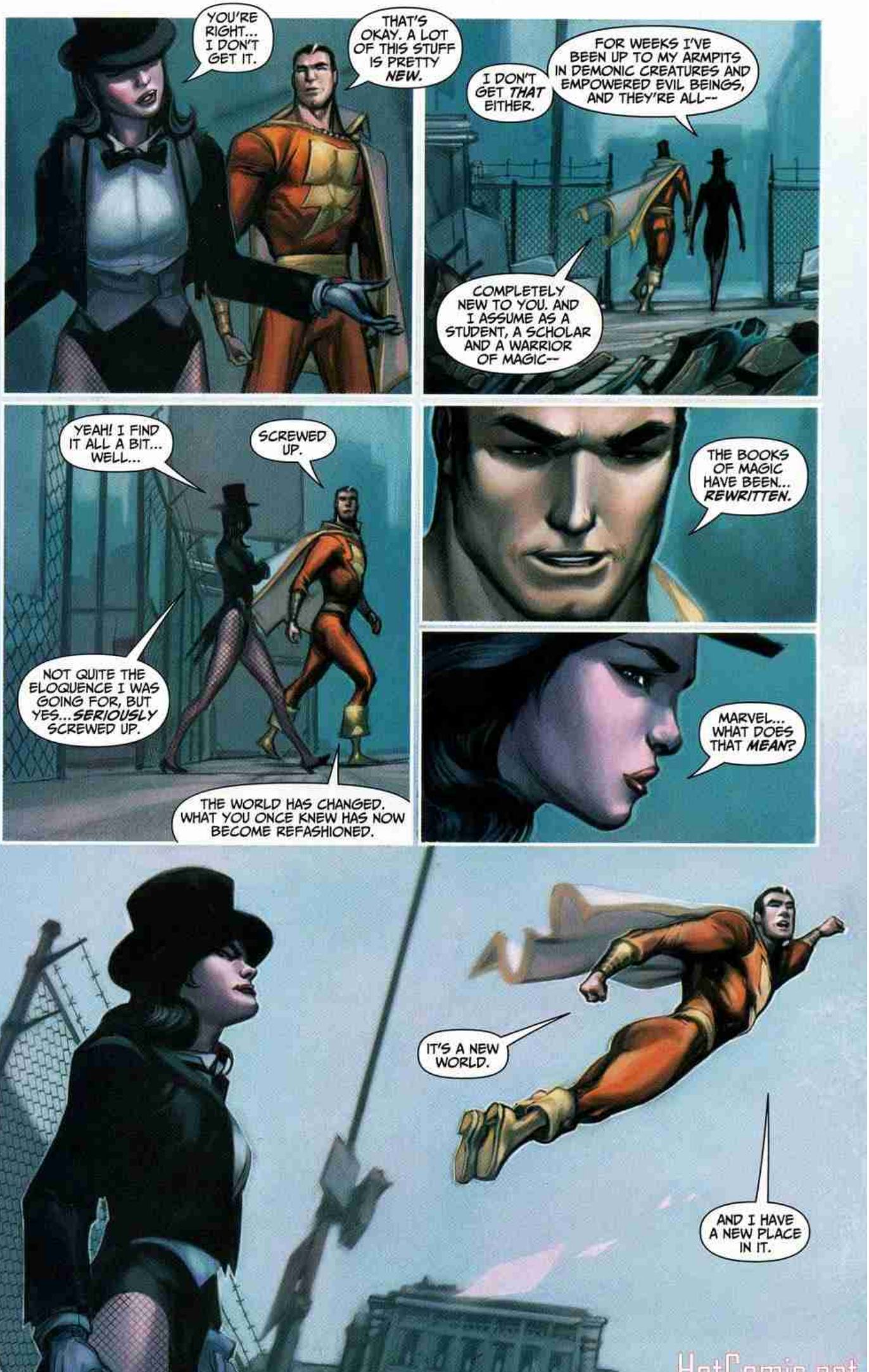
YOU'RE RIGHT... I DON'T GET IT.
THAT'S OKAY. A LOT OF THIS STUFF IS PRETTY *NEW.*
I DON'T GET *THAT* EITHER.
FOR WEEKS I'VE BEEN UP TO MY ARMPITS IN DEMONIC CREATURES AND EMPOWERED EVIL BEINGS, AND THEY'RE ALL--
COMPLETELY NEW TO YOU. AND I ASSUME AS A STUDENT, A SCHOLAR AND A WARRIOR OF MAGIC--
YEAH! I FIND IT ALL A BIT... WELL...
SCREWED UP.
NOT QUITE THE ELOQUENCE I WAS GOING FOR, BUT YES...*SERIOUSLY* SCREWED UP.
THE WORLD HAS CHANGED. WHAT YOU ONCE KNEW HAS NOW BECOME REFASHIONED.
THE BOOKS OF MAGIC HAVE BEEN... *REWRITTEN.*
MARVEL... WHAT DOES THAT *MEAN?*
IT'S A NEW WORLD.
AND I HAVE A NEW PLACE IN IT.
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The Rock of Eternity.
Not so long ago, it was destroyed...
...but like most constructs of MAGIC, it inhabits a realm of vastly different rules.
SHAZAM.
It is less a "location" and more of a way station of power.
CRA-KOOOMM
And its current occupant has found it more to his liking than he would have guessed.
He has come to enjoy his new home...
...and his "place in it."
BOY... THAT GETS EASIER EVERY DAY.
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ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FOCUS ON IT, AND THERE IT IS. EVEN AS MYSELF... EVEN AS BILLY BATSON...
...THE MAGIC COMES. BENDS TO MY ORDERS. OBEYS.
WHAT...? MAN, NO REST FOR THE WICKED. LITERALLY.
SO, WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE? FOURTEENTH-LEVEL WARLOCKS UNEARTHING A POWER MANDIBLE IN LONDON...?
FOURTEENTH-LEVEL? THAT CAN WAIT.
THREE STYGIAN ELVES BREAKING FREE OF A GRAVITOX DAMPENER... THAT'LL TAKE THEM A WEEK AT LEAST...
WHAT'S THIS IN... NORWAY...?
WELL. THIS HAS TO BE STOPPED. AND NOW.
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"SHAZAM."
NOW.
OKAY, THIS IS GETTING A BIT EMBARRASSING.
FIGHTING A GIGANTIC FROG IS BAD ENOUGH...
...BUT GETTING MY BUTT HANDED TO ME BY KERMIT ON "'ROID RAGE" IS A LEVEL OF HUMILIATION THAT I'D RATHER NOT ENDURE.
LUCKILY, I HAVE A FEW MORE TRICKS THAN I USED TO.
BOOM
CREOOOK

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BROTHER, YOU ARE MESSING WITH THE WRONG GOD-POWER-WIELDING DUDE.
I COULD GET USED TO THIS.
THE WORLD OF MAGIC BECOMES UNBALANCED, AND OL' CAPTAIN MARVEL SETS IT RIGHT.
I CAN DO THIS.
I CAN PROTECT THIS WORLD.

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NOW, LET'S TRY TO GET THOSE KIDS BACK TO THE CITY.
AND THEY'LL PROBABLY BE LESS FREAKED OUT BY BILLY BATSON THAN MARVEL.
SHAZAM.
KA-
BOOM
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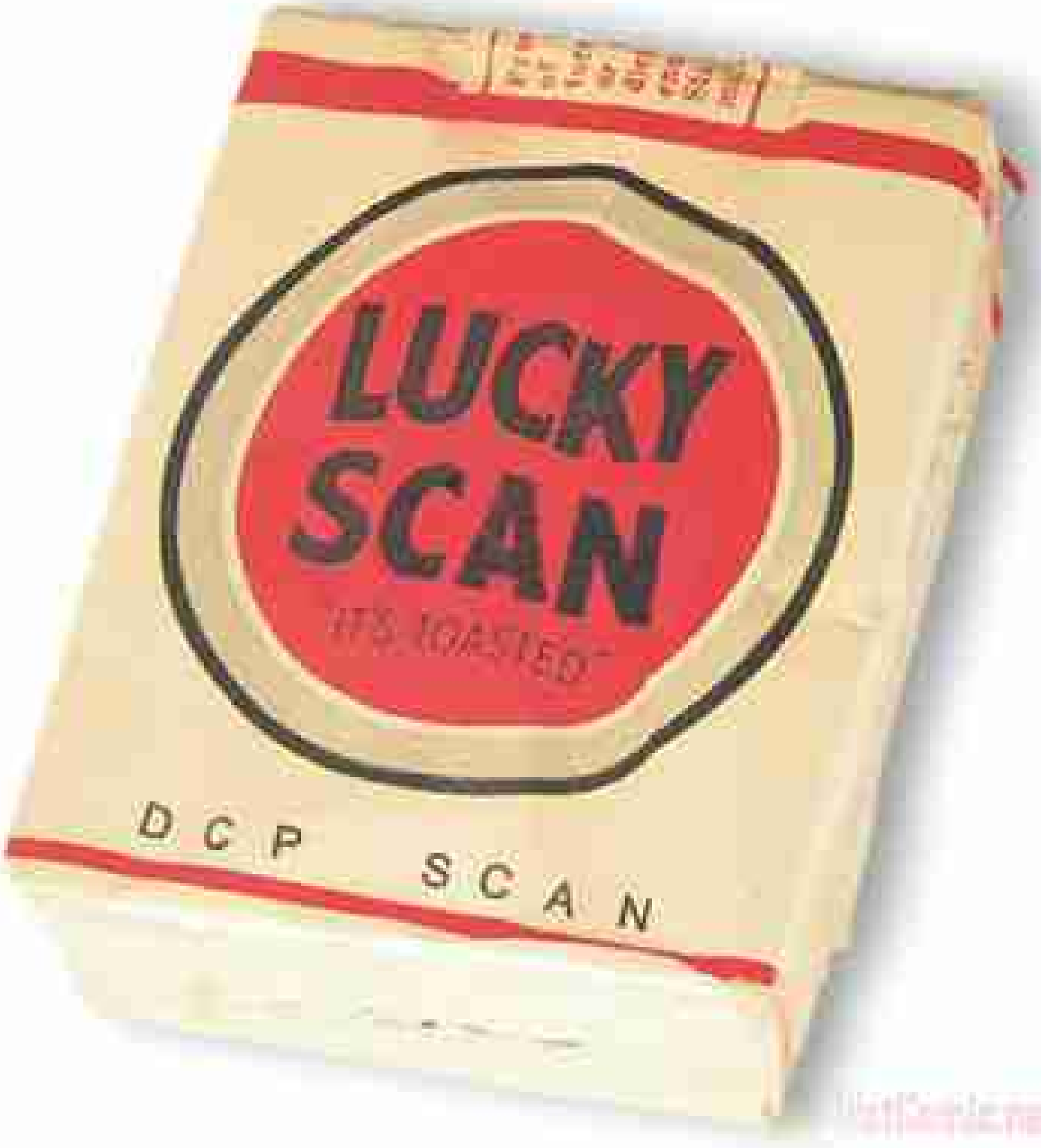
LUCKY
SCAN
DCP SCAN